

Comments from URGWOPS Public Scoping Meeting; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Radisson Hotel; September 20, 2000

Following is a summary of the questions, comments, and issues raised during the discussion that followed the formal presentation on the purpose and objectives of the Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at the scoping meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. They are presented in the order they were discussed. Other comments made to technical team representatives after the formal presentation are listed at the end of these notes.

?/Comment. What is the time period for URGWOM calculations?

?/Comment. How does URGWOM affect the State Engineer's decisions on other projects? How would the state use URGWOM to make decisions? For example, how would the projected diversions and timing of those diversions from the Rio Grande affect return flow credits?

?/Comment. Who is using URGWOM?

?/Comment. What is the relationship between the Bureau of Reclamation Draft EIS on the Low Flow Conveyance Channel and this Water Operations Review?

?/Comment. When scoping began, the Rio Grande Project was not to be included in the Water Operations Review. Now that the federal district court has dismissed this case, will operations be addressed below Elephant Butte?

?/Comment. Encourage agencies involved in the Review to look at old issues in the Rio Grande watershed, like the taking of land around Abiquiu Reservoir.

?/Comment. The public scoping period is short, relative to the entire project timeline.

?/Comment. Give some examples of improved flexibility and cooperation, and of increased efficiency that was referred to as a benefit of this Review.

?/Comment. Does the Water Operations Review deal with San Juan water? Why isn't the City of Albuquerque involved?

?/Comment. A major part of water loss in the system is due to evaporation. Is there a focus on technology to reduce losses?

?/Comment. Why is El Vado Reservoir not highlighted?

From flip chart sheets:

?/Comment. Preserve arroyo behind north section of dam.

?/Comment. Very informative, learned a lot. Please do more of this.

?/Comment. Newsletter to keep people informed would be a good idea.

?/Comment. Give us water to raft on. We create jobs, tax base, and economic impact in some of the poorest counties in the nation. 8 cfs at the Colorado state line is unacceptable.

?/Comment. Need a minimum pool established at Abiquiu. 75,000 acre-feet would be ideal!

?/Comment. Remember the "intrinsic" value of the river—not just its 'instrumental' value. It has value in itself, not just what it can do for us.

?/Comment. Great to have technical people to answer questions.